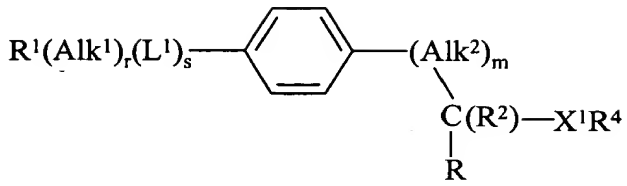


wherein:

R is a carboxylic acid;

R^1 is an optionally substituted pyridyl group;

Alk^1 is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic chain or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} heteroaliphatic chain containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from the group consisting of -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^5)-$, $-CON(R^5)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^5)-$, $-CSN(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)CO-$, $-N(R^5)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^5)CS-$, $-S(O)N(R^5)-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)S(O)-$, $-N(R^5)S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^5)CON(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)CSN(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)SON(R^5)-$, and $-N(R^5)SO_2N(R^5)-$;

R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group;

L^1 is -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^5)-$, $-CON(R^5)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^5)-$, $-CSN(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)CO-$, $-N(R^5)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^5)CS-$, $-S(O)N(R^5)-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)S(O)-$, $-N(R^5)S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^5)CON(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)CSN(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)SON(R^5)-$, or $-N(R^5)SO_2N(R^5)-$;

r and s, which may be the same or different, is each zero or an integer 1;

Alk^2 is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

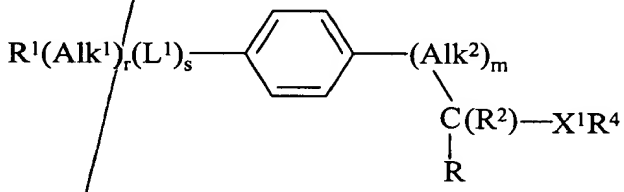
R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

X^1 is a group selected from $-N(R^3)CO-$, (where R^3 is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group); $-N(R^3)SO_2-$, $-N(R^3)C(O)O-$ or $-N(R^3)CON(R^{3a})-$ (where R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group);

R^4 is an optionally substituted C_{1-6}aliphatic, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkenyl, C_{7-10}bicycloalkyl, C_{7-10}tricycloalkyl, C_{7-10}bicycloalkenyl, or C_{7-10}tricycloalkenyl group;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.

14. (Amended Three Times) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a disease or disorder involving inflammation in which the extravasation of leukocytes plays a role in a mammal, which comprises administering to a mammal suffering from such a disease or disorder a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (1):



wherein:

R is a carboxylic acid (CO_2H);

R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl, straight or branched alkoxy or optionally substituted pyridyl group;

Alk^1 is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic chain or an optionally substituted C_{1-6} heteroaliphatic chain containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from the group consisting of -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^5)-$, $-CON(R^5)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^5)-$, $-CSN(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)CO-$, $-N(R^5)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^5)CS-$, $-S(O)N(R^5)-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)S(O)-$, $-N(R^5)S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^5)CON(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)CSN(R^5)-$, $-N(R^5)SON(R^5)-$, and $-N(R^5)SO_2N(R^5)-$;

R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group;